

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ABU DH 00910 110620Z

13

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 110610Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1791

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 0147

S E C R E T ABU DHABI 0910

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR TC US SY

SUBJ: RULER'S INTEREST IN US-UAE COOPERATION IN SYRIA

1. WHEN I SAW SHAIKH ZAYID JULY 9 I MENTIONED RECENT VISITS HERE BY KING HUSSAIN AND ASHRAF MARWAN AND GAVE HIM OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS ANY VIEWS ON CURRENT ARAB-ISRAEL SITUATION. ZAYID WAS NOT VERY FORTHCOMING. HE SAID KING AND MARWAN HAD COME TO BRIEF HIM ON SITUATION GENERALLY AND ON THEIR GOVERNMENTS ATTITUDES TOWARD PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. ZAYID SAID HE HAD TOLD THEM BOTH THAT AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED, ANYTHING PALESTINIANS DECIDED WITH RESPECT TO THEIR POSITION ON NEGOTIATIONS WAS ALL RIGHT WITH HIM.

2. IN CONTRAST TO THIS LACONIC TREATMENT, WHEN I RAISED SUBJECT OF SYRIAN AIRLINERS WITH ZAYID HE LAUNCHED INTO LONG DISQUISITION ABOUT HIS EFFORTS TO DRAW SYRIA OUT OF ITS HEAVY DEPENDENCE ON SOVIETS INTO MORE BALANCED RELATIONSHIP WITH WEST. CITING EXAMPLES OF SPECIFIC CONVERSATIONS, ZAYID SAID HE HAD CONSTANTLY GIVEN THIS ADVICE TO ASAD BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER OCTOBER WAR. ASAD HAD GENERALLY REPLIED THAT SYRIAN PUBLIC OPINION WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT STAND

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FOR HIS TAKING INITIATIVE TO LOWER DEPENDENCE ON SOVIETS

OR IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH WESTERN STATES. ZAYID NEVERTHE-
LESS PLEASED TO SEE THAT TRENDS IN THIS DIRECTION WERE NOW
UNDERWAY. HE SAID THIS WOULD REMAIN OBJECTIVE IN HIS DEAL-
INGS WITH SYRIA AND HE WISHED TO COOPERATE WITH US AND OTHER
WESTERN NATIONS IN IT. HE AND HIS ADVISORS WERE PRESENTLY
EXAMINING VARIOUS REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE AND THESE MIGHT BE SOME-
THING US AND UAE COULD COOPERATE ON. HE WOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH ME
ABOUT THIS IF NECESSARY AND HE ASKED THAT IN OUR TURN WE
COME TO HIM WITH ANYTHING WE BELIEVED NEEDED DOING TO
STRENGTHEN THE WESTERN POSITION IN SYRIA, "EVEN IF I HAVE
TO PAY FOR IT". I SAID I WOULD DO SO, AND KNEW WASHINGTON
WOULD GIVE MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO ANY PROPOSALS
HE MIGHT WISH TO BRING TO OUR ATTENTION.
STERNER

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